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INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CA-01	CCO-00	CG-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00
	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	JUSE-00
	LAB-01	L-00	M-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
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R 181845Z DEC 01 ZDK  
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4828  
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004625

S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: PTER, AR  
 SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: 2001 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 198912

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1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO INSTRUCTIONS AND QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL.

QUESTION A. SUMMARY OF POST-SEPTEMBER 11 COALITION SUPPORT MATRIX, EXCLUDING INFORMATION ON TREATY SIGNING AND RATIFICATION:

THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA (GOA) HAS EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM AND REPUDIATED THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11. THE GOA HAS OFFERED TO DEPLOY A MILITARY MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL UNIT TO AFGHANISTAN UNDER UNITED NATIONS MANDATE, AS WELL AS OTHER MILITARY AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING A BATTALION

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OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES FOR DEPLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN.

QUESTION B. WE HAVE NO CASE STUDIES TO REPORT.

QUESTION C. THERE WERE NO ACTS OF TERRORISM IN ARGENTINA DURING THE YEAR 2001. HOWEVER, THE ORAL TRIAL FOR ALLEGED ARGENTINE ACCOMPLICES TO THE 1994 TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE ARGENTINE-ISRAELI COMMUNITY CENTER (AMIA) BEGAN IN LATE SEPTEMBER. TWENTY SUSPECTS ARE BEING TRIED, 15 OF WHO ARE FORMER POLICE OFFICERS, INCLUDING A FORMER BUENOS AIRES POLICE CAPTAIN. THE SUSPECTS ARE ACCUSED OF SUPPLYING THE STOLEN VEHICLE THAT CARRIED THE CAR BOMB. THE TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO LAST THROUGH MUCH OF 2002.

THE AUTHORITIES CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES AND TO SEEK THOSE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 1994 BOMBING OF THE AMIA.

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A TEAM OF FBI INVESTIGATORS VISITED ARGENTINA IN JUNE 2001 TO WORK JOINTLY WITH ARGENTINE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE AMIA BOMBING IN REVIEWING THE INVESTIGATION. DESPITE THE TIME THAT HAS PASSED SINCE THESE INCIDENTS AND THE MISSTEPS IN THE INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS, THERE IS SOME EXPECTATION THAT THE PUBLIC TRIAL OF ACCESSORIES TO THE AMIA BOMBING WILL BRING NEW INFORMATION TO LIGHT ON ONE OR BOTH OF THE TERRORIST BOMBINGS.

QUESTION D. IN AUGUST CHILE REFUSED ARGENTINE FEDERAL JUDGE MARIA SERVINI DE CUBRIA'S REQUEST EARLIER IN THE YEAR FOR THE EXTRADITION OF GENERAL AUGOSTO PINOCHET FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE CAR-BOMB THAT KILLED GENERAL CARLOS PRATS AND HIS WIFE IN BUENOS AIRES IN 1974. THERE WERE NO EXTRADITION REQUESTS TO ARGENTINA FROM THE U.S.

QUESTION E: DISCUSSION HAS GONE ON FOR MANY YEARS IN ARGENTINA ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM TO FACILITATE USE OF PAID INFORMANTS, PLEA BARGAINING, AND UNDERCOVER AGENTS. MOST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND MANY PROMINENT JUDGES FAVOR SUCH CHANGES. HOWEVER, PAST ABUSES OF POLICE POWER DURING THE MILITARY REGIMES CONTINUE TO COLOR THE OPINIONS OF MUCH OF THE POPULATION ON SUCH ISSUES. THE ABSENCE OF THESE JUDICIAL POWERS REFLECTS A HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY ON CIVIL LIBERTIES ISSUES, BUT ALSO IMPEDES INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS.

HOWEVER, IN MARCH 2000, THE GOA PASSED CHANGES TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURES CODE, FACILITATING THE INVESTIGATION AND

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PROSECUTION IN TERRORISM CASES. IT INCLUDES THE ADDITIONS OF  
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LIMITED PLEA-BARGAINING FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM SUBJECTS.  
HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED  
OR ISSUED.

QUESTION F: THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT STRONGLY DEPLORES  
TERRORIST ATTACKS WHENEVER THEY OCCUR AND FREQUENTLY MAKES  
PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF ITS POSITION. THE GOA REGULARLY  
PARTICIPATES IN THE ANNIVERSARIES OF THE BOMBINGS OF THE  
ISRAELI EMBASSY AND THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, AND  
FREQUENTLY MAKES POSITIVE PUBLIC STATEMENTS AGAINST  
TERRORISM. A NUMBER OF CABINET MINISTERS PARTICIPATED IN THE  
JEWISH COMMUNITY'S MARKING OF THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
AMIA BOMBING ON JULY 17, 2001. ON THE DECEMBER 11, 2001  
THREE-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS, THE GOA  
HELD A PUBLIC MEMORIAL CEREMONY THAT RECEIVED NATIONAL LIVE  
TELEVISION COVERAGE AND SUBSTANTIAL PRINT MEDIA COVERAGE.  
THE PRESIDENT AND ENTIRE CABINET PARTICIPATED.

QUESTION G. IN EARLY 2000, THE GOA ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF  
A SPECIAL INTER-AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCE TO SERVE AS A  
MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMBING OF  
THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN 1992 AND THE AMIA BOMBING IN 1994.  
THE ACTIVITY OF THIS TASK FORCE HAS RECEIVED MIXED REVIEWS.  
THE MOST POSITIVE IMPACT HAS BEEN IMPROVED COMMUNICATION  
AMONG THE INVOLVED AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF  
INTERIOR, FEDERAL POLICE, AND THE INTELLIGENCE SECRETARIAT.

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4829  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004625

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IN DECEMBER 2000, THE GOA ANNOUNCED AN INITIATIVE TO CREATE  
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AN INTELLIGENCE UNIT WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE  
SPECIFICALLY GEARED TOWARDS ANALYZING TERRORIST THREATS.  
REPORTEDLY, IT WILL FUNCTION IN THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE UNIT  
WORKING WITH MILITARY AND CIVIL ANALYSTS THAT WILL  
SPECIFICALLY MONITOR CONDITIONS FOR NEW THREATS IN THE AREA  
OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

THE GOA STEPPED UP ITS EFFORTS WITH ITS REGIONAL PARTNERS IN  
STRENGTHENING SECURITY AND SEARCHING FOR TERRORIST SUPPORT  
NETWORKS IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND  
PARAGUAY AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS. SECURITY OFFICIALS  
FROM ALL THREE COUNTRIES, AND THOSE OF URUGUAY, ARE  
COORDINATING AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE ON THE SHARING OF  
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. THE FOUR COUNTRIES ARE ALSO TRYING  
TO IMPROVE VERY LIMITED JOINT OPERATIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST  
TERRORISM.

IN THE WAKE OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS THE GOA ALSO PLAYED A  
KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING A HEMISPHERIC CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF  
U.S. POSITIONS ON COUNTERTERRORISM. ADDITIONALLY, THE GOA  
WORKED WITH THE U.S. AND ALLIES IN MULTI-LATERAL FORA ON  
TERRORISM ISSUES.

QUESTION H. THE GOA DOES NOT IN ANY WAY PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR  
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, TERRORISTS, OR TERRORIST GROUPS.

QUESTION I. THE GOA HAS NOT MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN  
SUPPORT OF A TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM  
ISSUE.

QUESTION J. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE GOA'S ATTITUDE  
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TOWARDS TERRORISM IN THE YEAR 2001. THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS  
HAVE HELPED TO MAKE TERRORISM AN EVEN HIGHER GOVERNMENTAL  
PRIORITY. THE FUNDAMENTAL GOVERNMENT POLICY REMAINS ONE OF  
STRONG SUPPORT FOR ANTI-TERRORISM MEASURES, AND THE GOA IS  
FULLY COOPERATIVE IN INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS.

QUESTION K. THE USG CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ARGENTINA  
ON ITS ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOA, A  
TEAM OF FBI INVESTIGATORS VISITED ARGENTINA IN JUNE 2001 TO  
WORK JOINTLY WITH ARGENTINE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES  
INVOLVED IN THE AMIA BOMBING IN REVIEWING THE INVESTIGATION.  
IN 2001, THE USG ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS PROVIDED  
INFORMATION TO THE GOA IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS RELATED TO  
TERRORIST ACTIVITY. THE USG CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH  
THE GOA IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA.

QUESTION L. THE GOA AND ALL ARGENTINE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
HAVE COOPERATED FULLY IN THE INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL  
TERRORIST ASSETS HELD IN ARGENTINA. THOUGH NO LEADS HAVE  
BEEN FOUND, THE GOA HAS CONTINUALLY EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS  
TO FREEZE ASSETS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE USG'S REQUESTS.

QUESTION M. IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11, THE MUNICIPAL  
GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES AGREED TO CLOSE THE  
PUBLIC STREETS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE CHANCERY TO  
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOA SIGNIFICANTLY  
INCREASED THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL POLICE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT  
THE EMBASSY. BOTH COOPERATIVE PREVENTIVE MEASURES WERE TAKEN  
IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. GOA LAW  
ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY RESPONSIVE TO  
EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION ON SECURITY ISSUES.

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